

# Peninsula News and Views



Newsletter of the Peninsula Bridge Club

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## A word from your editor

Reasons why Peninsula is the best bridge club in Sydney. **Please share this list with non Peninsula members?**

1. We have a dedicated facility. We don't have to be worried about packing up the tables after every session, that the landlord will raise the rent every 6 months or place unreasonable restrictions on our activities
2. We have electronic Bridgemates and bidding boxes. This might seem trivial but many clubs don't have these devices
3. All the hands are pre-dealt and we are given hand records at the end of each session
4. The fees are extremely reasonable at only \$4 per member and \$7 per non member per session
5. Winners of duplicate events win a free session
6. Tea, coffee, biscuits and often cheese and wine are available for everyone
7. Good parking
8. A dedicated committee. The hands don't deal themselves, events don't just happen, beginners don't mysteriously learn the game and turn up to play. The committee is the unseen hand behind the club's success, they're not just the plaything of our Dear Leader
9. Continuous work from non committee members. Dishes are cleaned, rubbish picked up, essential but not very sexy
10. An up to date website and a regular newsletter
11. Directors who are knowledgeable, fair and available 6 days a week for our gaming pleasure
12. An impressive number of talks, tournaments and events held throughout the year
13. You're one of our members, or about to become one, perhaps the best reason of all

## Teams, the most fun you can have with 3 people, (according to Dear Leader)

On June 5th Peninsula Bridge hosted a Teams Tactics workshop run by renowned bridge teacher Greg Quittner. Teams are good fun but Team tactics are different to Pairs. This workshop was designed to explain the those differences.

Greg examined the tactics behind game contracts, slam contracts, penalty doubles, sacrificing and Teams psychology, if you didn't attend you're probably regretting it and just to turn that screw a little tighter, here is a sample from this excellent day.

### PENALTY DOUBLES

Whereas in pairs you should be trigger happy, in teams the opposite applies. Doubling a part score for penalties is very rare. This doesn't mean you never double, but you must be more cautious.

|   |    |   |    |                |
|---|----|---|----|----------------|
| N | E  | S | W  | N/S VULNERABLE |
| P | 1♠ | ? | 4♠ |                |
| P | P  | ? |    |                |

This is your hand: ♠ QJ62 ♥ A64 ♦ A1098 ♣ 64

Pass. If you double, East knows where the spades are and may only lose a spade, a heart and a diamond. If West has a void in hearts or diamonds, he will make 11 tricks.

|   |    |   |    |                |
|---|----|---|----|----------------|
| N | E  | S | W  | N/S VULNERABLE |
| P | 1♠ | x | 4♠ |                |
| P | P  | ? |    |                |

This is your hand: ♠ AJ10 ♥ AJ64 ♦ AQ98 ♣ 64

Double. It would have to be a very freakish distribution for East to make this contract

Copyright: Greg Quittner

**North**

♠ Q107  
♥ QJ7  
♦ AK86  
♣ 765

**South**

♠ A4  
♥ AK10932  
♦ J4  
♣ J83

**Bidding**

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♣   | 1 ♥  | P     | 2 ♦  |
| P     | 3 ♥  | P     | 4 ♥  |
| P     | P    | P     |      |

West leads ♣ 9  
T1–2      ♣ QK  
T 3      ♣ A West discards ♦ 7  
T 4      East leads ♦ 5

**BLUE** is the system this book uses to teach people how to squeeze

**B** one defender is **B**usy in 2 suits

**L** declarer has only one **L**oser remaining

**U** at least one threat lies in the **U**pper hand

**E** there will be an **E**ntry to the established threat

In duplicate every trick is important and an overtrick could mean a top board, a simple squeeze could give you that score.

East’s bid marks him with the ♠ K, but West might hold the ♠ J How would you play this hand?

Solution at the bottom of the page.

**The cruelty of fate**

Alan, our erstwhile President (aka Dear Leader) may be away and unable to write his normal piece for the Peninsula News, but worry not, he has selected 2 hands from the qualifying rounds of the State Open Pairs for your edification and pleasure.

|                                    |                                   |                                     |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ 853<br>♥<br>♦ 9542<br>♣ A75432   | DLR: W<br>Vul: N/S                | ♠ QJ10983<br>♥ K<br>♦ Q8<br>♣ KQ84  | Dlr: N<br>Vul: both               |
| ♠ J92<br>♥ AKQJ10754<br>♦<br>♣ K8  | ♠ Q104<br>♥ 98532<br>♦ KQJ73<br>♣ | ♠ 5<br>♥ 10752<br>♦ J96<br>♣ A10532 | ♠ K2<br>♥ J9863<br>♦ 7543<br>♣ 76 |
| ♠ AK76<br>♥<br>♦ A1086<br>♣ QJ1096 |                                   | ♠ A764<br>♥ AQ4<br>♦ AK102<br>♣ J9  |                                   |

E/W found themselves in 6HX. What’s the cruelest lead possible? Could it be the ♣ A? West on the ♣ lead went on to make 13 tricks....oh cruel fortuna!

In this beauty, N/S found themselves in 7S and East failed to find the killing ♣ lead. 7 ♠ made!

**Analysis for the squeeze problem**

Declarer leads trumps, ending in dummy; lead the ♠ Q, covered by the K and captured by the A. Now run the trumps

| West                               | East                               |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ J932<br>♥ 64<br>♦ Q10972<br>♣ 92 | ♠ K865<br>♥ 85<br>♦ 53<br>♣ AKQ104 |

**This is a book that deserves a place in your bridge library.**

The squeeze examples given in the Peninsula News hopefully show that squeeze play is not that difficult, however defending against them according to Clyde Love is probably the most difficult aspect of bridge play. Defenders should try and look at a hand from the declarers point of view and figure out what their plans or hopes might be. It is essential that you try and protect your partner.

## Bridge Education Update



As we enter the second half of 2013 and the third year of our current bridge education program at Peninsula Bridge Club, it is great to look at the progress of our new members who joined Peninsula after having completed these bridge education courses.

Graduates of 2011 are not only playing (and winning) in our regular duplicate sessions, they are now registering for Congresses. Beginners who completed courses in 2012 are enjoying supervised practise play and also venturing into regular duplicate games and finding it fun.

Our new intake of 24 beginners in the 1st half of 2013 are now joining our supervised sessions to practise what they have learned and a new group of beginners have joined our six week course on Fridays. During the first lesson, many explained that they had just retired and/or were new to the area and were looking for something fun but also mentally challenging, and wanting to meet new people socially – they left smiling!

Seated from left to right in the above photograph are Sarah Young, Jen Ardill and Suzanne Cole, all from the Class of 2011. These three women, (to be forever known as the “Smiling Assassins”) on Saturday June 29 played in a Teams competition and came second. Cath Whiddon, their Captain, their teacher, (and dare I say mentor), could not have been more proud.

Bridge is a complex game and new players sometimes find it hard to make the transition from beginner to intermediate. Our Smiling Assassins are now regularly winning club duplicate events and are an example that I hope will be duplicated.

**Cath Whiddon, with hyperbole and nicknames gratuitously supplied by the Editor**

## Steve Bloom's Blog site <http://sbloom.bridgeblogging.com>

Steve has an excellent site for people looking to improve their game and below is an example of his good work

Counting is incredibly easy and incredibly hard. There are only 13 cards in a suit. If you have four hearts, dummy has three hearts, and someone shows out on the second round of the suit, then the fourth player started with five hearts. Any third grader could do this arithmetic. Likewise, there are only 13 cards in a hand. Suppose, in the bidding Jimmy shows five spades, four hearts, and four clubs. How many diamonds will he have?

See, it is easy. Easy, easy, easy. The trouble is, there is so much stuff to count. When you declare a hand, you need to keep track of your winners, your losers, the number of cards out in every suit, and many other things. Any small detail might turn out to be important. As an example, your contract might hinge on deciding who has the king of spades. As it happens, East, who passed originally, has already shown up with 10 points. That means that West holds the king of spades. With 13 points, East would have opened the bidding. That is not a very hard inference to draw, but it requires keeping track of all the points played. Counting is easy, but pretty tedious, and it requires concentration, and practice.

When I first started playing, I would make a pact with myself. “Self”, I’d say, “today you are going to remember every card played, and count out every little detail, for the first five hands. After that, you can relax and have fun.” So I would do that every time I played. After a while, I noticed that I was counting out other hands, and the counting became easier, and I became a much better player.

There is a lot to keep track of during a bridge hand. Remembering it all gets to be pretty daunting. Still, it is worth trying. Practice counting out as much about a hand as your brain will take. How many hearts are still out? How many spades did West show in the bidding? How many spades did West show with the opening lead? They play standard count, and East played the five, then the two of diamonds. What does that mean? And on, and on. It is hard, and you have to practise.

### Sweet talking Tom

Ginger Tom. sweet talker he be  
Having the ladies thinking matrimony  
Falling for his diversionary patter  
And his constant flattering matter  
When all the time his chattering chords  
Are helping Tom amass top boards

**Thanks to M Stone for more of  
his observations**

### Pleasure and Pain

Bridge play and dentistry  
Pretty much the same  
Bridge work—Bridge play  
Needle—Drawing  
Pull teeth—Draw trumps  
Pain killer—Killer lead  
Polish teeth—Polish off  
In 6 months—Respond  
Overcharge—Overcall  
Large cheque—Large score

### Dummy Down

Now bridge can be trying  
When partner is found lying  
And the hand you are left  
Is definitely bereft  
Of honours needed for game  
Shame partner, shame



## Linda Abbenbroek bares her soul to the Peninsula News

**Who taught you to play bridge?** My 1<sup>st</sup> teacher was Ron Roberts at Peninsula who taught me Goren about 30 years ago. A great teacher. I then graduated to David McDonald who coached myself, Bev Menzies, Jan McLennan and Coral Aikin in the system which we now play, which is a 4 card system with Cro 2s and various other conventions. He was an excellent player and the four of us have played in Canberra for the last 30 years reaching a high of 4<sup>th</sup> in womens teams out of 100 teams.

**How many times a week do you play bridge?** I play maybe 6 or 7 times a week as I run my own Bridge Club and play with various people who come without partners. I play seriously maybe 3 times a week at night.

**Do you have any tricks for maintaining your concentration?** I think to maintain concentration is not to be too focused on Bridge. I play better if there is a little light hearted banter in between hands

**What characteristics make for a good partner?** A good partner is one who doesn't criticize you or your opponents. We all make mistakes and I just forget about them and get on to the next hand. It is important to play a system that you and your partner are very comfortable with.

**Have you made many friends through playing bridge?** I have made many friends at Bridge. I started playing whilst going through a divorce, so started from scratch. I met my husband John at Bridge and we had some wonderful Bridge nights at home with swims and a barbeque, always on New Years Eve with about 8 tables of Bridge. John and I even got married at Coral and Michael Aikin's home with about 30 Bridge friends there.

**Who is your favourite director?** My favourite Director was Roger Penny since deceased. Richard Grenside, Matthew McManus and John McIlwrath are very good directors too.

**What is your opinion of psych bids?** I have no time for psych bids.

**Are multi-twos essential for the modern bridge player?** Multi 2s are essential including CRO or RCO. I feel if you want to be a good player you have to get used to playing against all systems. Clubs should have a class teaching a defence against them.

**What trump asking convention do you use?** I use RKC Blackwood against a suit contract or CRO Gerber against NT.

**What criteria do you use for a penalty double?** If someone steals your contract I always double or at my discretion at other times.

**Do you have a bridge book you would recommend?** I never read bridge books as they contradict each other.

**What advice would you give to a new player?** My advice to new players is first to enjoy it, learn to concentrate and don't try to do too much. Learn a simple system first then you can expand from that.

## VU Bridge - your path to excellence

VU Bridge is an internet based bridge resource that is definitely worth checking out. With VU Bridge you can play hands on your computer, laptop, iPad, smart-phone or any other mobile device. The site has newsletters, lots of sample hands with expert analysis and if you decide you want more, for a payment of \$36 per year, you can access over 500 instructive hands.

What I like about this bridge site is that you get to bid as well as play the hand. It caters for all ranges of ability (with beginner, intermediate and advanced levels) and although the problems are quite tricky, they are the sort of issues you would expect to find during a duplicate session at Peninsula. The site uses a suite of experts and is an impressive educational tool—it's a great and easy way to improve your bridge. You just need a computer and \$36.

If you do decide to purchase hands through Vu Bridge I hope you support a local business such as "The Bridge Shop" [www.bridgeshop.com.au](http://www.bridgeshop.com.au) and buy the package through them. I've bought many things through this shop and find the owner very helpful, even if he is a little disparaging about Blue Club.

Peninsula Bridge Club Cnr Jacksons Road & Pittwater Road Warriewood NSW 2102

Tel: 02 9970 6527

Web: [www.peninsulabridgeclub.org.au](http://www.peninsulabridgeclub.org.au) E-mail: [bridgeinc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bridgeinc@optusnet.com.au)

Newsletter Editor: Peter Clarke [tiliqua@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tiliqua@optusnet.com.au)